

# CENSUS

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*and you*

Volume 33, No. 10/11  
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## Kenneth Prewitt Confirmed, Sworn in as New Census Director

On October 21, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Dr. Kenneth Prewitt, and he was quickly sworn in as the next director of the Census Bureau.

Commerce Secretary William M. Daley, who swore Prewitt in, called him "one of the country's most distinguished social scientists and accomplished executives."

At the swearing-in ceremony, Daley also praised the work of acting Director James Holmes, appointed to head the Bureau after the resignation of former Director Martha Farnsworth Riche. Holmes will resume his duties as chief of the Atlanta regional office and serve as a special adviser to Prewitt.

Before his appointment, Prewitt served as president of the Social Science Research Council, a position he held before. He also has served as senior vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation.

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics  
Administration  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



*New Census Bureau Director  
Kenneth Prewitt*

He taught for 15 years at the University of Chicago and for shorter periods at Stanford (where he received his Ph.D.), Columbia University, Washington University, the University of Nairobi and Makerere University (Uganda). He has served as the director of the National Opinion Research Center, based at the University of Chicago.

He is the author of numerous books and articles and the recipient of numerous honors. He has served on the editorial boards of a dozen professional journals and presently is a section editor for International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

## Happy 20th, State Data Centers!

In 1978, the Census Bureau signed agreements with the governors of Alabama, Arizona, Louisiana and North Carolina, and the State Data Center (SDC) program was born.

Today all 50 states are in the program, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In each state, there is a lead agency (generally a department of the state government) and a host of coordinate and affiliate agencies.

*Continued on page 8*

### **News Inside!**

- **Vehicle Inventory and Use**, page 2.
- **NAICS Manual**, page 2.
- **Hispanic Population – County-View**, page 3.
- **"Too Busy to Vote!"** Page 4.
- **Income, Poverty and Health Coverage**, pages 5-6.
- **State Rankings**, page 7.
- **Research Papers**, page 8.

## Trucks, Minivans and Sport Utilities – The Nuts and Bolts

Maine is the first report released from the 1997 Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey, a component of the census. Reports for Florida and Massachusetts are available too.

We will release a series of state reports, with a final U.S. summary in 1999. The reports show information on trucks, sport utility vehicles and minivans, and the characteristics of their owners.

The reports have statistics on registrations, cargo, percent used for personal transportation, fuel efficiency, mileage, model year and so forth.

Source: *1997 Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey*. <[www.census.gov/econ/www/viusmain.html](http://www.census.gov/econ/www/viusmain.html)>.

### Contact:

Kimberly Moore  
301-457-2797  
<[kimberly.p.moore@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:kimberly.p.moore@ccmail.census.gov)>

## Manual Untangles Industry Codes

We are only a few months away from the release of core business data from the 1997 Economic Census.

These will be the first data to use the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This is the system of codes replacing the long-standing Standard Industrial Classification.

To use the economic census data, you'll need to get familiar with the new coding system. The NAICS manual will get you oriented.

Source: <[www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html](http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html)>.

### Contact:

1-888-75NAICS(62427)  
<[naics@census.gov](mailto:naics@census.gov)>

## Questions?

### • Press inquiries

Public Information Office  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, DC 20233-0900  
Phone: 301-457-3030  
Fax: 301-457-3670  
E-mail: [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)

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TDD	206-553-5859

## Census and You

### Editorial Information

Editor: Neil Tillman

Contributors: Robert Bernstein, Felix Rivera and Trudy Thomas

For information about subscribing to *Census and You* or to send comments, contact the Public Information Office, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-0900 (301-457-2822; [ntillman@census.gov](mailto:ntillman@census.gov)).

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<[www.census.gov/prod/www/titles.html#cennews](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/titles.html#cennews)>

Volume 33, No. 10/11  
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# Hispanic Population Tops 4 Million in Los Angeles County

## California Still First Among States

Los Angeles County had a Hispanic population of just over 4 million in 1997. Almost 44 percent of the county's population was Hispanic. Since 1990, the county gained 649,404 Hispanics, making it number one in numerical increase.

As the table shows, counties in California, Texas and Florida led the nation in the number of Hispanics and in the increase in this population. (The rankings shown here are of counties with a Hispanic population of at least 100,000.)

The top 10 counties in concentration of Hispanics were all located in Texas: Starr (98 percent), Webb (95), Maverick (95), Jim Hogg (93), Zavala (92), Brooks (91), Hidalgo (88), Willacy (87), Duval (87) and Dimmit (86).

California, the state with the largest number of Hispanics in 1990, was likewise tops in 1997 (9.9 million) and registered the largest increase (2.2 million) between 1990 and 1997.

About 31 percent of California's population was Hispanic in 1997. New Mexico (40 percent) had the highest proportion of Hispanics.

Source: *County Population Estimates*. <[www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/countypop.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/countypop.html)>. Print and diskette (call 301-457-2422).

You can access similar county rankings for the White, Black, Asian and Pacific Islander populations on our web site.

### Contact:

Larry Sink

<[lsink@census.gov](mailto:lsink@census.gov)>

Amy Smith

<[amy.symens.smith@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:amy.symens.smith@ccmail.census.gov)>

301-457-2461

## Counties With Hispanic Population of 100,000 or More: 1997

Hispanic rank		1997	Rev. 4/1/90 Census	Chg '90-'97	Rank of chg.	Pct. Hispanic	Rank of pct.
1	Los Angeles, CA	4,000,642	3,351,238	649,404	1	43.7	84
2	Dade, FL	1,139,004	953,422	185,582	5	55.7	43
3	Cook, IL	867,520	694,196	173,324	7	17.1	261
4	Harris, TX	852,177	644,916	207,261	2	27.0	171
5	Orange, CA	761,228	564,843	196,385	3	28.5	157
6	Bexar, TX	745,475	589,176	156,299	9	55.9	42
7	San Diego, CA	696,718	510,785	185,933	4	25.6	187
8	Bronx, NY	567,061	523,072	43,989	31	47.7	67
9	San Bernardino, CA	533,733	378,576	155,157	10	33.0	132
10	Maricopa, AZ	526,540	345,494	181,046	6	19.5	232
11	El Paso, TX	521,666	411,620	110,046	12	74.4	25
12	Kings, NY	518,874	462,426	56,448	24	23.2	201
13	Riverside, CA	469,819	307,516	162,303	8	32.5	136
14	New York, NY	459,546	386,623	72,923	17	29.9	148
15	Hidalgo, TX	448,833	326,974	121,859	11	87.8	7
16	Queens, NY	436,516	381,116	55,400	27	22.1	213
17	Dallas, TX	415,700	315,631	100,069	13	20.5	226
18	Santa Clara, CA	409,043	314,565	94,478	15	25.4	190
19	Fresno, CA	316,450	236,637	79,813	16	41.9	93
20	Cameron, TX	272,527	212,996	59,531	21	85.0	13
21	Alameda, CA	246,713	191,261	55,452	26	18.0	247
22	Ventura, CA	236,273	176,952	59,321	22	32.5	135
23	Pima, AZ	223,516	163,271	60,245	20	28.7	155
24	Kern, CA	217,130	152,128	65,002	18	34.5	127
25	Hudson, NJ	216,771	183,459	33,312	39	39.3	107
26	Bernalillo, NM	204,776	178,310	26,466	47	38.9	110
27	Tarrant, TX	195,982	139,876	56,106	25	14.8	291
28	Nueces, TX	184,869	152,051	32,818	41	58.2	37
29	Clark, NV	179,061	82,904	96,157	14	16.2	273
30	Travis, TX	178,145	121,689	56,456	23	25.7	182
31	Webb, TX	174,160	125,069	49,091	28	95.1	2
32	Broward, FL	169,130	108,435	60,695	19	11.5	354
33	Sacramento, CA	168,274	121,545	46,729	29	14.9	287
34	Tulare, CA	161,676	120,894	40,782	33	45.8	72
35	San Joaquin, CA	153,832	112,670	41,162	32	28.4	158
36	Hillsborough, FL	153,349	106,906	46,443	30	16.9	264
37	San Mateo, CA	147,961	114,627	33,334	38	21.3	221
38	Monterey, CA	146,161	119,567	26,594	46	40.4	101
39	Passaic, NJ	135,217	105,981	29,236	44	27.9	163
40	Denver, CO	130,506	107,381	23,125	52	26.2	177
41	Contra Costa, CA	129,696	91,284	38,412	35	14.4	301
42	Santa Barbara, CA	127,912	98,200	29,712	43	32.8	134
43	San Francisco, CA	121,274	100,719	20,555	58	16.6	269
44	Essex, NJ	116,810	97,769	19,041	62	15.6	281
45	Stanislaus, CA	115,705	80,898	34,807	37	27.4	168
46	Suffolk, NY	113,463	87,835	25,628	49	8.3	451
47	Westchester, NY	107,006	86,130	20,876	57	11.9	349
48	Palm Beach, FL	105,147	66,614	38,533	34	10.3	384
49	Imperial, CA	104,774	71,935	32,839	40	72.9	27
50	Philadelphia, PA	101,414	89,196	12,218	92	7.0	506
51	Orange, FL	101,194	64,940	36,254	36	12.9	332

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, *County Population Estimates*.

# Hectic Lifestyles Made for Record-Low Election Turnout in '96

*"Too busy to vote."*

*"No time off to go."*

These were several of the reasons people cited for not voting in the 1996 presidential election.

Nearly 5 million registered voters said they did not vote because they couldn't take off from work or school or were otherwise too busy, contributing heavily to the lowest voter turnout reported in a general election since the Census Bureau began collecting these data in 1964.

Lynne Casper, coauthor of the report on the findings, said, "More than 1 in 5 of Americans who were registered but did not vote told us they didn't go to the polls because they couldn't take time off from work or were too busy – triple the proportion who gave this reason in 1980."

Loretta Bass, the other author, observed, "Time constraints are now the single biggest reason Americans who are registered give for not voting – many people these days are finding their employers are putting so many demands on them, they can't take time off to vote."

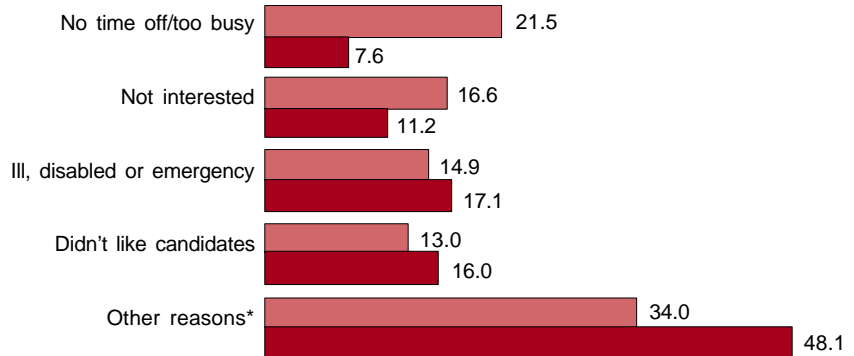
Another reason increasingly cited for not voting is apathy about the political process: 17 percent of non-voting registered persons reported they did not vote in 1996 for this reason, up from 11 percent in 1980.

The report examines voting and registration in the 1996 election compared with that of previous elections. Also, for the first time, the Census Bureau analyzes voting and registration among the citizen population (rather than among the voting-age population, which includes noncitizens) and compares the rates for

## Why They Didn't Turn Out

Percent citing reason for not voting by those registered to vote: 1980 and 1996

■ 1996 ■ 1980



\*Includes no transportation, out of town, forgot, lines too long and don't know/refused to answer.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, *Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1996*, Series P20-504.

native-born and naturalized citizens. Data are from the November 1996 Current Population Survey.

(The Current Population Survey's overall turnout rate of 54.2 percent is higher than the "official" turnout rate of 49.8 percent, as reported by the Clerk of the House.)

Source: *Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1996*, P20-504.

<[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html)>.

"Too Busy" to Vote. Census Brief, CENBR/98-4. <[www.census.gov/prod/www/titles.html#cenbrief](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/titles.html#cenbrief)>.

Printed copies from Customer Services (301-457-4100).

### Contact:

Lynne Casper  
<[lynne.m.casper@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:lynne.m.casper@ccmail.census.gov)>

Loretta Bass  
<[loretta.e.bass@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:loretta.e.bass@ccmail.census.gov)>  
301-457-2445

## U.S. Manufacturers Roll Out Over a Billion Yards of Carpet in '97

In 1997, U.S. manufacturers produced \$10.3 billion worth of rugs and carpets – in all, about 1.7 billion square yards.

If you're an industry-watcher, one of the best ways to watch is through the Current Industrial Reports from the Census Bureau. Not every industry is covered, but many are. For most, we have released 1997 data.

The contents vary but generally quantity and value of shipments are shown, for multiple years, with a breakdown for various types of products (e.g., room-size rugs over 6-foot by 9-foot) and materials (e.g., made of nylon).

Source: *Current Industrial Reports*.  
<[www.census.gov/econ/www/alpha.html](http://www.census.gov/econ/www/alpha.html)>.



## Latest Figures!

# Income and Poverty in the USA

State figures on page 6.

Three years of positive growth in real median income have restored household income and poverty rates to their 1989 pre-recessionary levels, according to the latest information from the Census Bureau.

Daniel Weinberg, chief of the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, said: "Nationwide, the proportion of the population living below the poverty level declined from 13.7 percent in 1996 to 13.3 percent in 1997. The 1997 rate was not statistically different from the pre-recessionary rate in 1989.

"This decline in the nation's overall poverty rate was mostly caused by declines in poverty experienced by Blacks and Hispanics."

The income information is available at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/income.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income.html).

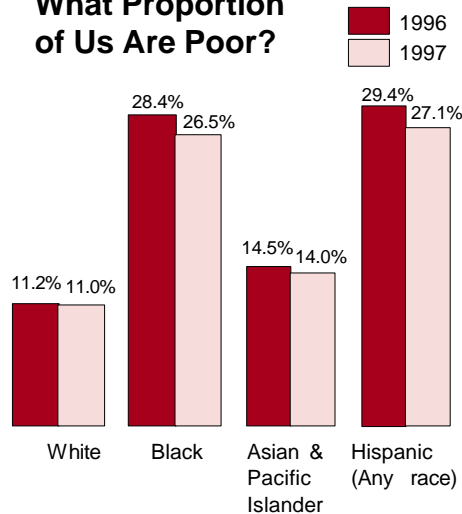
The poverty information is available at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html).

The 1997 income and poverty figures are more than just totals of the number of poor people and the number in a certain income group. The reports show the characteristics of groups: race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, education, employment status, number of children, and other characteristics.

This year we issued press releases with findings for different groups: Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics. These are viewable off the "News" button on our home page. The news releases give you the findings in a nutshell.

*Continued on page 6*

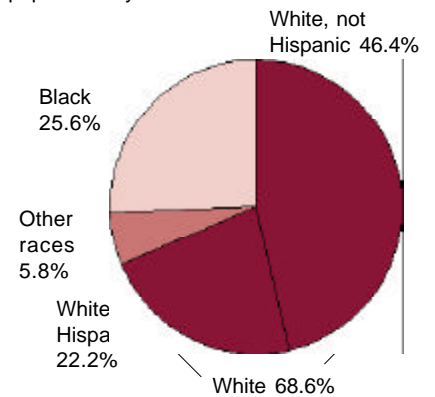
### What Proportion of Us Are Poor?



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, *Poverty in the United States: 1997*, Series P60-201.

### And Who Makes Up the Poverty Population?

Percent of the poverty population by race: 1997



Note: Hispanics are 23.4 percent of the poor.

## Poverty Level of Hispanics Drops, Income Improves

America had fewer poor Hispanics in 1997 than in 1996 according to information collected in March 1998 and released in September.

The number dropped from 8.6 million in 1996 to 8.3 million in 1997; the rate dropped from 29.4 percent to 27.1 percent.

This decline accounted for a significant share of the decrease in overall poverty.

Hispanic families also experienced a decline in their poverty rate, from 26.4 percent in 1996 to 24.7 percent in 1997.

(Although the poverty rates declined for both Hispanic persons and families, their rates remained higher than those of several other population groups.)

At the same time, Hispanic households had a 4.5 percent increase in their real, or inflation-adjusted, median income between 1996 and 1997, from \$25,477 to \$26,628.

Real per capita income for Hispanics rose during the same period, from \$10,279 to \$10,773 an increase of 4.8 percent.

(See the related article on this page for information on the income and poverty of the population as a whole and of race groups. Hispanics may be of any race.)

Source: Poverty: [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html). Income: [www.census.gov/hhes/www/income.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income.html).

## Income, Poverty and Health Coverage

Continued from page 5

In addition, we have released a chartbook – *Measuring 50 Years of Economic Change*, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the March Current Population Survey.

This volume is in *PDF* format on the web. Number crunchers also can find 50 years of downloadable numbers on our web site.

Each year we generally release statistics on health insurance coverage

along with the poverty and income estimates.

This information is online at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins.html).

### Related Data

Many of our standard reports – on education, mobility, fertility and population groups such as Blacks and Hispanics – have extensive income and poverty data.

In addition, we have several other special income, poverty and health

insurance coverage reports that you'll find useful:

- *Changes in Median Household Income: 1969 to 1996*. Series P23-196.
- *Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 1993-1994, Trap Door? Revolving Door? Or Both?* Series P70-63.
- *Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Health Insurance, 1993 to 1995, Who Loses Coverage and for How Long?* Series P70-64.
- *Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Income, 1993 to 1994, Moving Up and Down the Income Ladder*. Series P70-65.
- *Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1995 (With Comparisons to 1993)*. Series P60-196. (To be released.)

### Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: Three-Year Average 1995-1997

(In 1997 dollars)

States	Median household income	Pct. in poverty	Pct. w/o health ins. through-out year	States	Median household income	Pct. in poverty	Pct. w/o health ins. through-out year
United States	\$36,399	13.6	15.7	Missouri	36,093	10.2	13.5
Alabama	30,103	16.6	14.0	Montana	29,262	16.0	15.3
Alaska	50,829	8.0	14.7	Nebraska	34,722	9.9	10.4
Arizona	32,535	17.9	23.0	Nevada	38,760	10.1	17.3
Arkansas	27,031	17.2	21.3	New Hampshire	40,854	6.9	10.4
California	39,458	16.7	20.7	New Jersey	47,612	8.8	15.8
Colorado	42,664	9.2	15.5	New Mexico	27,707	24.0	23.5
Connecticut	43,151	10.0	10.6	New York	35,601	16.6	16.6
Delaware	40,009	9.5	14.1	North Carolina	35,312	12.1	15.3
District of Columbia	32,314	22.7	16.1	North Dakota	31,496	12.2	11.1
Florida	31,708	14.9	18.9	Ohio	35,928	11.7	11.6
Georgia	35,272	13.8	17.8	Oklahoma	29,042	15.8	18.0
Hawaii	42,931	12.1	8.3	Oregon	37,287	11.5	13.7
Idaho	34,441	13.7	16.1	Pennsylvania	36,525	11.7	9.8
Illinois	40,613	11.9	11.6	Rhode Island	36,623	11.5	11.0
Indiana	33,667	8.6	11.5	South Carolina	33,446	15.4	16.2
Iowa	35,054	10.5	11.6	South Dakota	30,349	14.2	10.2
Kansas	33,919	10.5	11.8	Tennessee	30,896	15.2	14.5
Kentucky	32,668	15.9	15.0	Texas	34,216	16.9	24.4
Louisiana	31,217	18.8	18.8	Utah	39,694	8.3	12.4
Maine	34,641	10.9	13.5	Vermont	34,592	10.7	11.3
Maryland	44,970	9.6	13.4	Virginia	40,405	11.7	12.9
Massachusetts	41,016	11.1	12.0	Washington	39,846	11.2	12.4
Michigan	39,076	11.2	10.1	West Virginia	26,505	17.2	15.8
Minnesota	41,482	9.5	9.1	Wisconsin	41,215	8.5	7.9
Mississippi	27,912	20.2	19.4	Wyoming	32,764	12.5	15.0
				Los Angeles, CA CMSA	38,000	18.5	24.5
				New York, NY CMSA	40,463	14.8	17.8

Pct. Percent.

Note: Standard errors shown in reports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, March 1996-1998 Current Population Surveys.

## State Rankings – How Does Your State Measure Up?

(Note: Columns show rankings 1 through 50, not actual values or percentages.)

State	Percent of population 65 years and over, 1996	Persons per square mile of land area 1997	Health insurance – persons not covered, 1995	Murder <sup>1</sup> per 100,000 resident population, 1995	Persons killed in alcohol-related crashes – percent of all persons killed in crashes, 1995	Federal funds and grants, 1996	Automobile insurance <sup>2</sup> , average expenditure per insured vehicle, 1995	Energy expenditures, per capita 1994
Alabama	23	25	22	5	21	19	32	13
Alaska	50	50	46	14	3	45	13	3
Arizona	21	37	12	9	16	21	14	39
Arkansas	7	34	28	9	42	33	41	17
California	45	12	1	5	29	1	7	48
Colorado	47	38	24	27	13	22	15	47
Connecticut	9	4	35	33	10	27	5	19
Delaware	25	7	43	40	25	48	9	10
Florida	1	9	4	23	35	4	11	49
Georgia	48	20	6	12	39	14	25	28
Hawaii	24	13	45	32	8	37	2	43
Idaho	38	44	39	35	43	42	46	33
Illinois	28	11	7	11	17	6	23	30
Indiana	26	16	18	20	41	18	34	8
Iowa	4	33	32	47	21	31	48	16
Kansas	15	40	33	26	32	32	42	13
Kentucky	26	23	23	24	44	24	30	15
Louisiana	38	22	12	1	4	20	8	2
Maine	11	36	38	46	49	40	43	6
Maryland	38	5	16	4	40	11	12	44
Massachusetts	10	3	20	39	12	12	4	32
Michigan	31	14	11	18	33	9	20	36
Minnesota	31	31	31	37	15	25	22	38
Mississippi	33	32	26	2	21	29	27	24
Missouri	12	27	17	16	5	13	28	37
Montana	21	48	44	42	20	44	44	7
Nebraska	12	42	40	43	38	38	45	20
Nevada	38	43	34	7	7	39	10	11
New Hampshire	36	18	42	47	36	43	24	31
New Jersey	12	1	9	29	30	10	1	9
New Mexico	44	45	27	16	6	34	21	35
New York	17	6	3	18	46	2	3	46
North Carolina	28	17	10	13	45	15	40	29
North Dakota	6	47	50	50	1	47	50	4
Ohio	17	8	5	28	47	8	35	18
Oklahoma	16	35	21	3	37	28	36	23
Oregon	17	39	29	35	26	30	29	41
Pennsylvania	2	10	8	25	28	5	17	27
Rhode Island	3	2	41	41	21	41	6	34
South Carolina	34	21	25	21	48	26	26	22
South Dakota	7	46	49	47	14	46	48	25
Tennessee	28	19	15	8	31	17	37	26
Texas	46	29	2	15	2	3	16	5
Utah	49	41	37	37	50	36	33	50
Vermont	34	30	46	44	26	49	38	21
Virginia	42	15	14	22	34	7	31	40
Washington	37	26	19	29	11	16	18	45
West Virginia	4	28	36	31	18	35	19	11
Wisconsin	20	24	30	34	19	23	39	42
Wyoming	42	49	48	45	9	50	47	1

<sup>1</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>2</sup>Copyright by National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, *State and Metropolitan Area Data Book*, 1997-98.

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## State Data Centers

*Continued from page 1*

The agencies receive data from the Census Bureau and disseminate this information to users within their state.

The centers also have data from other sources, federal and local. They offer training and technical assistance in accessing Census Bureau data files.

In 1988, the SDC program had an offshoot – the Business and Industry Data Center (BIDC) program, focused more on the use of economic data in business development. Both the SDCs and BIDCs are data sources that users should consult for data on the local scene.

For a list of SDCs and BIDCs, contact Customer Services (301-457-4100) for a copy of our latest *Census Bureau Telephone Contacts for Data Users* or come to our web site (<[www.census.gov/sdc/www](http://www.census.gov/sdc/www)>).